6: Kirchhoff--32 [5] U-4 (no date) 1895 Formosans
116, 248, 286

This latter fiber [MC: nettle fiber] promises to become even more valuable when it proves possible to free it of the gummy substance that clings to it, makes it more difficult to use and prevents it from taking color evenly when, for example, it is woven together with silk. But even so the Boehmeria ("la ramie" of the French) provides a highly esteemed woven material that gleams like silk, so that it is grown in huge quantities in Ho-nan, Schan-tung, Hu-pe and round Nan-king. In Formosa the stalks reach a height of 3 to 4 m., and can be cut three times a year. In part the stalks are treated as follows: after they have been softened by soaking in water, the bark has been removed and they have been smoothed and dried, they are sent as raw material to China, where they are used to manufacture Schia-pu (summer material, the "grass cloth" of the English); in part the Chinese women and the wives of the Pepo-huan, in Formosa, spin the beautiful fibers to form a shining yarn, and from this they weave broad strips of material up to 30 m. long and 45 cm. wide, two women sitting at a primitive loom out in the open. Boehmeria fiber is already exported from Shanghai, in large amounts, for the world trade, and in London as much as 2,000 marks is paid for the ton.

9: Yamasaki--232 [8] N-5 (1896-1897) 1900 Formosans
116, 137, 248, 286

The pineapple (Hōri or Unrai) is an important plant for Taiwan, not only for its fruit, but also because the leaves have fine fibers from which thin summer clothing is woven. The fine cloth used for this is called Unrai-pu or "pineapple cloth." The most important textile plant of the island is, however, the China-grass (Boehmeria nivea Hook.), Tschumā in Chinese and Karamushi in Japanese, its fibers being exported in large quantities. It is also one of the chief articles of barter for the aborigines in the mountains. In Holisha I saw a large quantity of China-grass fibers, which had been taken there by the natives living on the upper course of the Dakusui-kei.